

THIS Time

A biannual newsletter for The Harrisburg Internship Semester
Volume 2, Issue 1.

Winter 2007

Interns make history

Writings become part of time capsule for Capitol centennial

Every now and then, someone gets a chance to witness history. Interns in The Harrisburg Internship Semester's Fall 2006 class made history participating in the centennial celebration of Pennsylvania's Capitol building from Sept. 30 to Oct. 4.

They then wrote about their experiences as part of weekly reflective papers that they submit during the semester.

The papers were shared with officials in the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who then arranged to have them placed in the time capsule to be opened at the Capitol in another 100 years. The reflections also were placed in the House Archives.

The following vignettes are excerpted from those reflections:

Homer Lane (Cheyney)

– I attended the political symposium about the 100 years of the Capitol's history. ... The fact that I was able to sit in the actual desks the legislators do in the chambers of the House of Representatives thrilled me. As a result ... I feel more included in the political process – and I am eager to become



The grounds of the Pennsylvania Capitol were festooned for the centennial celebrations of the historic building last fall. THIS interns participated in the events and activities and wrote about their experiences as part of a class assignment. Photo by Jason Hollister, THIS Fall 2006

more active. I believe if more people were to experience their government at work, they too would be inspired to take a more active role.

Michael Link (Slippery Rock) – The Capitol Artists and Architecture Grand Tour was one of the most enjoyable events that I attended. The event included performances by talented actors and actresses playing the parts of different artists and architects who contributed to the building of the Capitol. They provided the insight into the design of the

building and its artwork ... The success of these events is the result of hard work and careful planning of hundreds of sponsors, volunteers, and government employees.

Nick Little (Kutztown) – I volunteered at an information table sponsored by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency during the Capitol Treasure Hunt and Children's Expo. It was a nice experience ... I think the Expo provided state organizations an

Continued on Page 4

Former THIS interns get legal

Interns go on to a variety of professions after their experience in The Harrisburg Internship Semester. In this issue, we are highlighting several who have pursued careers in the legal profession.

Derek Baker is an attorney in the firm of Reed Smith LLP of Philadelphia. A 1995 graduate of Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, his internship was in the Senate Judiciary Committee. He graduated from the University of Dayton Law School in 1998. His law practice focuses on commercial restructuring and bankruptcy.

Nathan Wolf graduated from West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and political science. His THIS internship was in 1998 with

former Attorney General Mike Fisher. He graduated from Dickinson Law School in 2001. He and his wife, Stacey Wolf, started their own general law firm, Wolf and Wolf, in 2005.

After Desiree Brougher graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2002, she earned her law degree from Widener University School of Law in Harrisburg in 2005. Her THIS internship was with Sen. Sean Logan (D-45th) in his Capitol office. She currently is a law clerk for Judge David Addy in Carbon County and specializes in family law issues.

Christopher Lantz earned a degree in political science from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania in May 2000. His THIS internship was in the

Department of State's Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. He received his law degree from Widener University in May 2004 and practices in the law offices of Cox and Stokes P.C. in Wellsboro. He is the current president of the Tioga County Bar Association.

Rebecca Myers is a special assistant to Attorney General Tom Corbett. She graduated from West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 2003. She completed her THIS internship with David John in the majority leader's office of the House of Representatives.

Lilit Poghossian is attending Villanova Law School. She graduated from Lock Haven University in 2003 with a degree in international relations and interned with Michelle Bason in Sen. Logan's office.

Thanks for all you do

THIS succeeds because a variety of personnel at PASSHE's Dixon University Center and other Harrisburg locations provide ongoing support and friendship. Interns would like to thank the following:

Virginia Burd, manager of the International House, who provides housing, programming and personal friendship to interns who live at the International House.

Lacey Fowler, a student at Harrisburg Area Community College, who serves as secretary for the THIS director and updates the program's

automated files.

Gina Franklin, center support specialist at the Dixon Center, who works with payroll officials at the universities to ensure that stipends are paid to the interns in a timely manner.

Krisy Heagy, student services coordinator, who makes arrangements for receptions and luncheons for the THIS program.

Loralee Isbell, Dixon University Center administrator and her staff, who organize the classrooms for the THIS program on a weekly basis.

Lisa Demko, executive assistant to the president of

Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties, who has organized APSCUF receptions for THIS interns for the last thirteen years.

Irene Ralls, secretary to the budget secretary, who serves as an unofficial ambassador for interns in downtown Harrisburg.

Sheri Askew, office manager for Indiana University of Pennsylvania's administration and leadership studies program at the Dixon University Center, who provides professional support and administration consultation to the THIS director.

Guest speakers provide real-life insight

Each week during their 14-week internship, THIS interns attend an academic seminar that addresses a broad range of public policy issues. Guest speakers discuss various facets of government and how policy issues are addressed.

Following is a list of speakers from the Fall 2006 semester:

Dr. Patricia Heilman, president of Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties, talked about faculty who teach at PASSHE'S 14 Universities.

Rachel Schreck, a student at Shippensburg University, discussed her experiences as a THIS intern in Spring 2006 in the office of Jeanne Schmedlen, director of special projects and chief of protocol for the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Rep. Mauree Gingrich (R-101st), discussed the activities of a legislator, including how legislation is introduced and passed.

Michael Murphy, executive director of the Urban Affairs and Housing Committee in the office of Sen. Shirley Kitchen (D-3rd) discussed the roles of a staff member in the General Assembly.

Sarah Miller, regulatory services analyst for the Independent Regulatory Review Commission, talked about the role of regulations as public policy and the process the Commonwealth uses to adopt regulations.

Patricia Fonzi, director of



Charmaine Clowney, center, PASSHE's assistant vice chancellor for diversity and multicultural affairs, spends time with interns Michael Link and Marie-Alice Muleba before her presentation to the Fall 2006 class.

development for the Family Health Council of Central Pennsylvania, discussed grants and financing by state and federal government for local non-profit agencies.

Jeffrey Cooper, chief counsel for PASSHE and executive deputy counsel for litigation in the Governor's Office of General Counsel, talked about the role of the judiciary in public policy and the system of judicial review in the Commonwealth.

Charmaine Clowney, PASSHE's assistant vice chancellor for diversity and multicultural affairs, discussed the role of diversity in today's workplace and ways by which interns can increase their sensitivity toward ethnic and minority groups.

Dr. James Moran, associate vice chancellor for academic and student affairs in PASSHE,

discussed PASSHE and its role in higher education.

Jeanne Schmedlen, director of special projects and chief of protocol for the Speaker of the House of Representatives, discussed public service and careers in state government.

Former THIS intern **Jen Levingood Ebersole**, executive legislature specialist

Continued on Page 4

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Jeff McCloud
Editor

Fall interns celebrate 100 years of Capitol

Continued from Page 1

opportunity to educate citizens about their efforts.

Marie-Alice Muleba (East Stroudsburg) – The rededication ceremony on the steps of the Capitol was one of the most inspiring events I ever attended. Listening to Gov. Ed Rendell, Lt. Gov. Catherine Baker Knoll and others talk about the Capitol's history made me proud to be a Pennsylvanian. I felt that it was my Capitol and my history that they were talking about.

James Pool (IUP) – The Capitol embodies beauty in two ways – the sheer artistic glory of its architecture, and that it stands as a testament to the people of Pennsylvania. ... The building still inspires young men and women like me to work for others.

Lucas Schaeffer (Clarion) – During the ecumenical church service, the House of Representatives choir performed the Battle Hymn of the Republic – a fitting end to the service that promoted strength and unity. The inspirational speeches from representatives of five religions, who spoke about the need to



THIS interns handle the American flag balloon during the parade for the Capitol centennial celebrations. *Photo by Jason Hollister, THIS Fall 2006*

promote togetherness and to work for a better world, lifted my spirits.

Jason Hollister (Millersville) – The Pennsylvania Treasures Parade featured floats, gigantic balloons, marching bands and many distinguished guests ... THIS interns volunteered as balloon handlers and carried the largest balloon – the American flag. ... I am fortunate to have been part of this once-in-a-lifetime event with my fellow interns.

Shane Langan (Bloomsburg) – My best memory was sitting outside on the steps of the Capitol watching the fireworks with my fellow interns. A great

surge of accomplishment engulfed us ... That moment helped to reaffirm how lucky we were to come to Harrisburg. The Centennial gala was a unique experience I will never forget – and would not have been possible without The Harrisburg Internship Semester.

Matthew Tague (California) – Theodore Roosevelt stated, "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." These words of wisdom could not ring more true as I reflect on the Capitol centennial celebration. ... I not only got to witness it, but I personally helped to organize it.

Interns learn from Harrisburg's best and brightest

Continued from Page 3

at the state Department of Health discussed policy making from the perspective of a state agency.

Ann Spishock, special assistant to the secretary of the budget, discussed the

Commonwealth's budget process and the role of budgeting as part of policy formation.

Mike Walsh, director of administration in the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, discussed administrative

functions in state agencies.

ML Wernecke, director of the office of policy development in the Department of Public Welfare, discussed careers as policy analysts and the types of policy analysis.

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April 2006

Experiencing more than the daily routine —

Faculty director, interns attend conferences, give presentations

The resident faculty director and the interns of The Harrisburg Internship Semester maintained a hectic schedule during the spring semester as part of, and in addition to, their regular work duties and attending a weekly academic seminar.

Dr. Wade Seibert, faculty director, joined Rick Harvey, past president of the Student Government Association at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, to present a workshop on student volunteering at the annual meeting of the National Association of Campus Activities in Boston, and at the Association of Campus Unions International in Kansas City.

Godwin Quashigah, a senior business major at Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, with officials of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable

Organizations, attended a conference sponsored by the National Center for Charitable Statistics Organizations for the National Association of State Charities Officials and the Internal Revenue Service. The conference focused on changes recommended for the reporting of income and expenditures by nonprofit charity organizations. Quashigah is an intern in the Department of State.

Julbert Abraham, Monica Walker and **Quashigah** attended the 20th anniversary of the Fattah Conference on Higher Education in Philadelphia sponsored by U.S. Congressman Chaka Fattah. The interns attended a variety of seminars and workshops about graduate education, careers, and professional conduct.

Abraham is majoring in business administration at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania and is an intern in the human resources office of the state Office of Administration. Walker is a junior political science major at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and is an intern in Sen.



Quashigah Walker Abraham



Berry Gross Rupert

Vincent Hughes' office.

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania senior **Ryan Berry** attended the annual conference of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. He participated in sessions related to municipal planning, public policy related to county and state taxation and special issues such as call towers, tax exemptions for non-profit organizations and wind farms. A communications studies major, he is interning in the communications office of Lt. Gov. Catherine Baker Knoll.

Eliza Gross traveled to the regional office of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) at Nockamixon State Park in Bucks County to install GPS software on new computers. The installation was in preparation for statewide training of DCNR officials about GPS. Gross is a senior majoring in geography at Millersville University of Pennsylvania.

Influential speaker



Every Monday night during their internship, THIS interns hear from influential policymakers about their experiences in state government. Here, Jean Schmedlen, Director of Special Projects and Chief of Protocol for the Speaker of the House, discusses a research project with Rachel Schreck of Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

Continued on Page 4

Research sets THIS apart from other internships

State agencies may use findings to make future policy decisions

No other internship program in Pennsylvania offers the rigorous demands of working a full-time job and academic requirements. Yet, it's the academic research and papers interns write that sets The Harrisburg Internship Semester experience apart from other programs.

Following is a synopsis of several projects interns did in the Spring 2006 semester.

Eliza Gross

Eliza Gross knows more about state parks than the average Pennsylvanian.

A geography major at Millersville University of Pennsylvania, she worked in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and compiled extensive data about the Commonwealth's parks. The list included everything from locations of hiking trails and camping areas to buildings and the materials used to construct them.

Gross didn't just sit at her desk and think of ideas off the top of her head. She conducted interviews with employees to find out what information ought to be included on such a list.

Initially, she said, DCNR was looking at getting detailed information about all of the buildings at each of the state parks, such as the number of windows and doors, precise location and more. The intent was to use Geographic Information System technology to create "layers" of data and place it on a website to provide virtual tours of the buildings. Now, thanks to Gross' project, that can be expanded beyond the four walls of a building.

"My paper will be an asset to them when it's done," she said.

Monica Walker

For Monica Walker, doing a paper about state and federal funding for HIV education and prevention in the African American community was a

personal matter – AIDS had touched her family.

When she started an internship with state Sen. Vincent Hughes, who also was interested in the subject, she jumped at the chance to do the research. She had her work cut out for her: She examined data from the Center for Disease Control, interviewed people in Pennsylvania and called the AIDS prevention director in every 50 states.

A junior political science major at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, she discovered that New York and California receive the most federal funding for AIDS prevention based on the number of new cases. The problem with AIDS in the African American community is poverty – those cases may go unreported because "the average African American living with HIV cannot afford health care at all," Walker said.

"Their situation is severely different," she added.

In Pennsylvania, AIDS prevention is working well, especially in Philadelphia, which has seen a decline in the number of new cases. Nationwide, though, one of the biggest hurdles, especially in more conservative areas, is discussing a topic that is taboo.

"In order to talk about HIV, you have to talk about relationships," Walker said, adding that she believes the only way to solve the funding issues is through legislation.

Grace Franks

In Pennsylvania few public programs exist to help individuals with substance abuse problems re-enter society after having served time in prison.

But after conducting research into the issue at the state Board of Probation and Parole, Grace Franks is convinced that successful programs can be implemented to help. She is a

political science major at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.

She studied programs in New Jersey, Ohio and Texas and compared them to Pennsylvania. It wasn't easy because "there really aren't a lot of statistics because the programs are newer," she said.

Franks did find a "re-entry court" in York County that mirrors successful re-entry programs elsewhere. In the program, substance abusers gain their freedom, but they have a monthly court appearance before a judge to hold them accountable. They also have to submit to urine analysis and meet with a team of people committed to monitoring their progress.

"I feel it will be very effective," Franks said, adding that such programs clearly have been shown to reduce recidivism.

Megan Rupert

Latino high school students in Pennsylvania face significant obstacles to a college education. Chief among them is a drop-out rate that is higher than white and African American students,

according to Megan Rupert.

"There is a definite gap in minority education," she said.

An intern with the Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs, Rupert studied the issue of matriculation for Latinos and their ability to pursue a college education. In more cases than not, she believes, simple one-on-one contact with mentors – either teachers or other influential people in their lives – would make the difference in a student's life.



Franks



Gross



Walker



Rupert

Former interns serve public through education

The Harrisburg Internship Semester is designed to give college students from the 14 state-owned universities experience in state government.

Indeed, many interns have chosen to pursue careers in government. Meanwhile, others have found fulfillment in another area of public service: education.

Following is a brief synopsis of several former interns who now are working in education in one capacity or another.

A 1993 graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, **Elizabeth Keene McCloud** completed an internship with the Governor's Office of Communications. She is currently

director of financial aid at Elizabethtown College.

Cori Simcox Evans graduated from Lock Haven University in 1991. She interned in the Office of the First Lady. She received a master's of education and doctor of philosophy degrees from Penn State and now is a faculty member at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania.

Before **James Panarella** graduated from California University of Pennsylvania in 1994 with a degree in communications, he served as an intern in the Governor's Proclamation Office. He is currently a teacher at the Katherine Gibbs School.

Jessica Fike Pheasant is an instructor for 25 children in the 21st

Century Learning Center for the Tuscarora Intermediate Unit No. 11 in Juniata County. She graduated from Shippensburg University in 2004 and completed an internship with Norman Bristol-Colon in the Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs.

Debra Kolesar Polesiak is an English teacher in the senior high school of Fox Chase School District in Western Pennsylvania. She graduated from California University in 1995 with a degree in education and earned a master's in education from Wilkes University in 2000. She interned in the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Interns discuss research projects

Continued from Page 2

"A lot of it is personal interaction," she said. "Mentorship is key to letting Latinos know they can go to college."

Rupert, a history, Spanish and geography major at Clarion University of Pennsylvania, came to her conclusions after thorough research. In addition to interviewing people, and reading pertinent journals, she attended a conference called "Extra Learning Opportunities" sponsored by the Center for Schools and Communities and the state Department of Education.

Jessica Shirley

If Jessica Shirley had her way, she would place more offices for Pennsylvania's industries and products in emerging markets all over the world.

A political science and economics major at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, she researched the Commonwealth's position in exporting its products while an intern in the

Governor's Office of Policy and Planning. She doesn't mince words about the Commonwealth's competitiveness compared with other states – such as Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, New Jersey and Ohio.

"We pretty much need to get our products into other emerging markets before we're left in the dust by our competitors," Shirley said.

During her research, she learned that those other states take an even more active role in promoting their

businesses internationally. For instance, Ohio has had an active export program since the late 1970s. It has 10 international offices and is a top manufacturing exporter. It also plays a large role in attracting foreign

direct investment, accounting for many jobs in Ohio.

"It's imperative that we keep up with our competitors and other states," she said.

Pennsylvania could implement similar programs within the Governor's new initiative, such as one-on-one counseling with businesses about exporting, loan guarantees and grants, and attending international trade shows to represent and showcase the state's businesses.



Shirley

It's imperative that we keep up with our competitors and other states."

Jessica Shirley

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Jeff McCloud
Editor

Faculty inspirations

Professors guide students as mentors

Interns take many paths to get to The Harrisburg Internship Semester. They take guidance and inspiration from faculty at the 14 PASSHE Universities.

Dr. David Solan
Business and Economics Department
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania

"He is my advisor and he taught me how my limitations could become my strengths when I accept them to be my limitations, and learn from them."

Godwin Quashigah

Dr. James Fisher
Political Science and Criminal Justice Department
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
"Dr. Fisher has had a major impact on me because he has shown me that excellence in the classroom is not only a goal, but something that can be achieved through dedication to making yourself a better student."

Mike Davis

Dr. Zoe Spencer
Social and Behavioral Sciences Department



THIS Class Spring 2006

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania

"While attending college, one professor who has had a very influential impact on me is my sociology professor, Dr. Spencer. She made me aware of different things that are happening in my society – and she taught me not to be part of the problem, but be part of the solution."

Julbert Abraham

Dr. Sharon Sykora
Government and Public Affairs Department
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

"Dr. Sykora has always showed interest in my education. She has confidence in me which made me

more confident. She inspired me to seek a career in politics or law. She was not just my professor – she is my friend."

Grace Franks

Dr. Kathryn Gregoire and Dr. Richard Fulmer
Social Work Department
Millersville University of Pennsylvania

"Dr. Gregoire and Dr. Fulmer from the Social Work Program at Millersville pushed me to a higher

level of academic performance as well as let me know I was smart, capable, and deserving."

Angela Keller

Dr. Sara Grove, Interim Dean
College of Arts and Sciences
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania

"She has motivated me to get involved and advised me on career perspectives. She has inspired me to seek internships and assisted me in my new leadership experience. Dr. Grove is a person who I admire beyond anyone else."

Rachel Schreck

Dr. Susan Martin
Political Science Department
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

"Dr. Martin has encouraged me to continue my interests in political science. She has offered support as well as presented opportunities. Ultimately, she renewed my interests in becoming a THIS intern and eventually having a career in government."

Kristen Clendenen

Dr. Kathleen Schreiber
Geography Department
Millersville University of Pennsylvania
"Dr. Schreiber was my advisor at Millersville and she always kept me on track. She helped me excel in all of my classes. I learned so much from her."

Eliza Gross

Interns attend, give presentations

Continued from Page 1

Megan Rupert presented a paper titled "The English Language: Roots of Anglo-Conformity and Patriotism" at the Regional Phi Alpha Theta and Undergraduate History Forum at Juniata College. Phi Alpha Theta is the history honor society.

A senior at Clarion University of Pennsylvania, she is majoring in history, Spanish and geography. She

interned in the Governor's Office of Latino Affairs.

In addition to the Fattah Conference, **Abraham**, a native of Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, spoke about his homeland as part of the workshop series titled Discover the World sponsored by the International House in Harrisburg. Several interns lived at the International House.

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LHU professor appointed faculty director

Dr. Wade Seibert of Lock Haven University was appointed to serve as the resident faculty director of The Harrisburg Internship Program for the 2005-2006 academic year.

He earned degrees from the Pennsylvania State University, Cornell University and University of Pennsylvania. Currently, he is an instructor of social work and former program director of the Social Work Program at LHU.

Prior to teaching there, he was a budget analyst and policy planner in the state Department of Public Welfare, and a social worker at a pediatric rehabilitation hospital and hospice counselor.

Dr. Seibert has completed research on the roles of caregivers, loss and grief by children, rural and community life, and volunteering and community service by young adults. He has presented papers at the National Association of Rural

Health, the Rural Social Work Caucus, the National Mental Health Association, the National Association of Campus Activities, and the annual program meetings of the Pennsylvania and West Virginia chapters of the National Association of Social Workers.

He also volunteers with cancer survivors and individuals in recovery and is a fund raiser for scholarships at his university and high school.

Virtual who's who in Harrisburg

Once a week, THIS interns attend an academic seminar to gain some classroom perspective on the work they are doing during their internships.

The seminar includes influential guest speakers – the who's who of Harrisburg – with whom the interns can interact and question on a broad range of public issues. They also learn about the state's responses to those issues.

In the fall 2005 semester, speakers included:

- Brenda Foster, PASSHE's executive director of system relations, gave a presentation on the various roles the Office of the Chancellor plays on behalf of the State System and the Universities and the activities at the Dixon University Center.

- Rep. Dave Reed (R-62nd), a former THIS intern related how his experiences as an intern helped him win election to the state House and understand current public policy issues at the local, state, and national levels.



During weekly academic seminars, interns hear from a wide range of guests, including elected officials such as Rep. Dave Reed (R-Indiana), who is a former THIS intern. Here he discusses a project with Shelley Cook, a Fall '05 THIS intern before he speaks to a seminar.

- Dr. Patricia Heilman, president of Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties, talked about the faculty, which APSCUF represents, who teach at PASSHE's 14 Universities.

- Rep. Mauree Gingrich (R-101st) discussed the activities of a legislator, including how legislation is introduced and passed, constituent

- services and careers in politics and public administration.

- Albert Ferguson, assistant executive director of the state House Appropriations Committee, discussed the Commonwealth's budget process, from the initial program policy guidelines issued

See Who's Who on Page 1

Interns delve into in-depth projects

For interns in The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) working full time in a professional setting is just part of the experience. They also must complete an academic research project in which they examine public policy issues.

The projects are unique to the interns based on their interests and the sponsoring agency where they work.

The subjects are important to the agency, and the interns frequently find themselves making recommendations based on their research.

Ed Slavinsky

Balance was something Ed Slavinsky, a health science/community health major at Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, learned quickly as he worked at the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board in the Fall 2005. His research project was examining the effectiveness of grant money that universities use to stop or limit underage drinking and inappropriate alcohol usage.

Between the project—which involved researching the grant-funded programs at five universities—his regular work responsibilities and attending to a weekly academic seminar, life was some-

times stressful.

“It took a lot of skills that I didn’t know I had,” Slavinsky said.

In the end, it was a valuable experience because he learned to write in a style that was less academic and more professional. And when he learned that his supervisor at the LCB relied on

his research to make decisions, he realized that he was part of the team and not just an intern.

“There’s definite responsibility there,” he said, adding that the experience dashed any qualms he might have had about the work he was doing. “I’m not worried anymore because through this internship I have gained a greater self-confidence in both my professional and academic abilities.”

Jermaine Beaumont

In Jermaine Beaumont’s case he learned that Commonwealth employees are bound by the Governor’s Code of Conduct.

A senior finance/accounting major at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania,

he spent the fall semester researching the code of conduct. The code is a set of strict guidelines to which employees in all state offices under the Governor’s jurisdiction must adhere. The guidelines cover everything from stock purchases, financial statements and real estate holdings

Through his research, Beaumont discovered that not many rank and file employees know about the code. Consequently, he was

surprised that many workers are unaware of the code and what it requires of them.

“They should know about it,” he said, adding that he thinks new employees should review the code with their human resources managers

and then sign a paper acknowledging that they understand it.

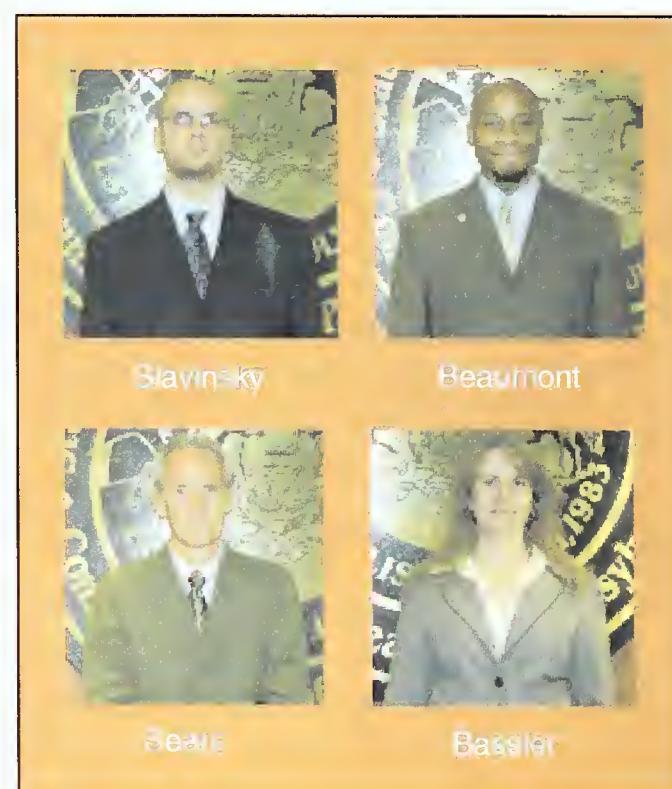
Dirk Sears

Ten years ago, the federal government issued rules to preserve wetlands throughout the nation, leaving it up to states to decide how best to accomplish the goal. Last fall, Dirk Sears researched the effectiveness of the Pennsylvania Wetlands Replacement Program over the past decade as an intern at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Majoring in environmental science biology at Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, Sears learned through his project how state government handles federal mandates.

After interviews with a variety of stakeholders, he discovered that, while generally the program has worked well, the federal legislation was a bit vague and left to interpretation.

See Research on Page 3



I’m not worried anymore because through this internship I have gained a greater self-confidence in both my professional and academic abilities.

— Ed Slavinsky

Former interns serving public

So what do THIS interns do after they graduate? Several have turned their experience in state government into a career, including one state representative.

Jennifer Levengood was an intern in Sen. Jay Costa's office. She graduated from Kutztown University in 2000 with a degree in political science and a minor in public administration. She is an executive legislative specialist with the state Department of Health.

Tiffany Strickler is deputy director of the Governor's Commission on Women. She graduated from Mansfield University in 2003 and has a master's in social work from Temple. Her THIS internship was in the Office of the Attorney General.

Laura Statler is the director of governmental relations for the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties. Prior to this appointment she served as the Director of Constitu-

ent Relations in the House of Representatives. She graduated from East Stroudsburg in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in speech communications and received her master's in political science in 2003. She interned at the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.

Rep. Dave Reed is serving his second term in the House of Representatives representing the 62nd District which includes parts of Indiana and Cambria Counties. He graduated from IUP with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics. He was a THIS Intern the Spring 1999 semester in the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Jonathan Longwill is Rep. Reed's Chief of Staff. He graduated from Clarion University in 2001 with a degree in communication. During the Fall 1999 semester, he completed an internship with the Press Office of the Attorney General.

Research plays important role in THIS

Continued from Page 2

"That's kind of been the problem with wetlands programs," he said.

And even with a decade of history Sears said various groups are still trying to determine what is the best way to accomplish the ultimate goal of preserving wetlands.

"Everybody's still kind of jockeying for position," he said.

Anna Bassler

Anna Bassler, a senior political science major at Shippensburg, analyzed results of a survey that Sen. Patricia Vance (R-31st) sent to her constituents in spring 2005 to gauge support for issues such as public transportation and raising the gasoline tax.

"I knew how the questions were going to sway the response because I've lived in the district my

whole life," Bassler said. But it was interesting to see how close the results were.

For instance, she was surprised to learn that residents in the district support raising the gasoline tax if it helps pay for public transportation but not for building and maintaining roads and bridges.

I think the constituents in the 31st District are ready for public transportation," Bassler said.

As part of her project, she also attended a discussion with PennDOT officials and other local officials where they talked about public transportation. The meeting helped bring the dry statistics to life.

"The numbers made more sense when I went to the panel discussion," she said.

Who's who of speakers

by the governor to final legislative approval.

- Jeffrey Cooper, Esq., PASSHE chief counsel and executive director, general counsel for litigation in the Governor's Office or General Counsel, talked about the role of the judiciary in public policy and the system of judicial review in the Commonwealth.

- Charmaine Clowney, Esq., PASSHE's director of diversity and equal opportunity, discussed the role of diversity in today's workplace and ways by which institutions can increase their sensitivity toward other ethnic and minority groups.

- Sarah Miller, regulatory analyst for the Independent Regulatory Review Commission talked about the role of regulations and the process the Commonwealth uses to adopt regulations.

- Kelli Thompson, research analyst for the Pennsylvania School Board Association, discussed the roles of public interest and advocacy groups in public policy development and implementation.

- Jeanne Schmedlen, director of special projects and chief of protocol for the Speaker of the House, discussed public service and careers in state government.

Statewide Higher Education

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Brenda Fusie
Executive Director

Jeff McCloud
Editor

Expectations vs. experience

Preconceived notions shattered —

When interns arrive in the state capital, for The Harrisburg Internship Semester they have preconceived ideas and expectations about what they will learn and do.

In reality, it is nothing like their expectations.

On Commonwealth employees —

"State employees have a passion to serve the public (and) are confident and brave enough to take on the challenges and opportunities that exist with their positions. This type of inner strength allows me to have confidence in our state government ... Their dedication, loyalty and bravery have reminded me about my own future and willingness to accept challenges."

— Ed Slavinsky, Lock Haven

On working with people

"The staff in Sen Costa's office have taken me in as if I have worked there for years, and they always speak to me as their colleague. The other important thing is meeting my fellow interns. I was so worried that I would miss my family and friends — it never occurred to me that I was gaining new ones ... from the internship."

— Christina Cuppett, California

On the internship —

"I had preconceived notions about what I would learn and do, but in reality, it is nothing like my expectations."



THIS Class of Fall 2005

misperceptions about THIS before I came to Harrisburg. There are

“THIS is simply a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It has allowed me to explore the complexities of state government and apply what I have learned in the classroom to real life situations impacting policy decisions.”

— Graham Nkanza

three non-traditional students in my class. There are seven interns who are not majoring in political science — their fields include criminal justice, environmental science, English and history."

— Julye Seely, Bloomsburg

On the selection as an Intern —

"... Obtaining the Cadillac of internships as one professional labeled it, is competitive. Only one student

from each Pennsylvania university is chosen each semester to go to Harrisburg and be involved in state government."

— Dirk Sears, Mansfield

On THIS —

"THIS is simply a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It has allowed me to explore the complexities of state government

and apply what I have learned in the classroom to real life situations impacting policy decisions. The networks that I have had the opportunity to establish ... are too valuable to put a price tag on — and will surely benefit me in the present as well as in future endeavors."

— Graham Nkanza, Clarion

On learning from experiences —

"In the classroom, you gain knowledge of how government is supposed to work. THIS provides an opportunity to gain priceless working knowledge of the

government. In class you read about the legislative process and how a bill is passed through the Senate and the House. With THIS, you discuss with legislators and other policy makers their first hand experience and perceptions about the legislative process. You can not get that experience from a textbook."

— Kevin Foster, West Chester